



Black Bear

Ursus americanus

-Most common and most widely distributed of the bears. Can be found across Canada, down the Rocky Mountains into Mexico, in mountainous areas of the eastern United States and in Florida.

-Black bears are not always black but can also be brown, blonde, white, or reddish.

-Black bears are omnivores, eating a variety of plant materials as well as insects and occasionally smaller mammals.

-Black bears are excellent climbers, with short curved claws that allow them to ascend a tree with surprising speed. When faced with danger, black bears almost always either run or climb a tree. Young bears are taught this strategy by their mothers very early in life.



-Cubs are born during the winter while the mother is in her den. Young bears stay with their mothers an average of 1.5 years before their mother chases them off and is ready to have a new litter.

-Although they often seem large and ungainly, bears can run up to 25 mph for short periods of time.

-Although bears have good eye-sight and very good hearing they depend most heavily upon their sense of smell.

-Bears are most active during the day, waking a short time before sunrise and bedding down a few hours after sunset.